

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under §§102/103 as being unpatentable over Nonomura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0114763 A1) either alone or in combination with Shanmugasundaram et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0044959 A1). Since these claims are cancelled, the rejections are now moot.

New claims 11-20 are added for the Examiner's consideration. With respect to new claims 11-20, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Nonomura nor Shanmugasundaram discloses the character-string table and the document-structure table, as now recited in the new claims. More specifically, in Nonomura, the structure of each XML document and the character string extracted therefrom are both stored in "one tree-like giant XML document" that is shown in FIGs. 8, 18 and 19 wherein a circle and a box indicate an element in the document and a character string extracted from the element, respectively.

In Shanmugasundaram, the tables shown in FIG. 4, which represent the structure of the XML document as a whole, include character strings in the XML document such as "Car Corporation," "1 Jan 2000," "3000," "6000," "8342398432," "3474324934," "8000," and "2000." In other words, Shanmugasundaram does not distinguish between the structure of the document and the character string in the document. Sanmugasundaram also does not store the structure and character string into separate tables. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of new claims 11-20.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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